

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

January 13, 2011

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Case (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on January 6, 2011 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau
Discussion:

Councilor Calnon said I would like to make a comment about the minutes if I could. I've had some conversations with Beth over the past several weeks saying you know you don't need to report this great detail that you do, but, actually I'm kind of glad that she did. Because what she's reported for the comments that I made last week are exactly what I remembered and there's been an awful lot of really angry conversations that have gone on on-line and various areas and I just want to clarify what my comments were and what they were not. I never ever said that anyone should confront anyone. I did not suggest that I was calling out the firefighters. Both of those phrases were in the newspaper article, but, they did not come from me and they did not represent what I said. What I did say was that if people happened to run in to a firefighter in the normal course of business they should ask them the question and frankly I said that because I believe that the taxpayers of the city have the right to question any of us on the decisions that we make about spending money. Now the Mayor gets a ton of phone calls and emails and can't walk across the street without somebody talking to him about it. To a lesser extent Councilors get comments, I was stopped in the grocery store the other day actually having a very pleasant conversation with a gentleman. I've had exactly the opposite happen where folks will come in and asked for something or complain about something. As long as it's civil and it's a question or it's an opinion I have no problem with it. Our department heads face that on a daily basis. But, it's true of all of our employees; if you make a decision on how to spend the public's money you should expect the public has a right to ask you to defend your decision. I defend mine, everyone needs to defend theirs. That's not confrontational in fact one of the things that happened at the end of the meeting last week was there was a woman here that I've known for a number of years who was very unhappy with me. She made a very passionate expression of that and I responded with a very passionate response and in the end neither one of us convinced the other and we agreed to disagree but it was civil, it was cordial, it was not confrontational, it was not scary in any manner, it was civil discourse. It was the kind of question that any public employee whether they're an elected official or an appointed official or an employee should expect that the public has the right to ask and

it makes no difference that we walked away not agreeing when I run in to her again on a social occasion I will greet her the same as I always did and treat her the same as I always did because it was a passionate but very civil discussion and that is really what I was suggesting should happen. Now what's happened is and anyone who has been reading the comments on-line and facebook and a whole bunch of other places is that I'm accused of basically threatening people and that's not the case at all. If I'm going to go out and say yes I'm voting tonight for a budget that contains a tax increase and I'll defend the \$.13 of it that I voted for that I actually was a part in making the decision on but there's \$.07 in here that I didn't get a chance to vote on and so you need to talk to the people who actually made that decision and it's just that simple. If someone made a decision and believed they did it for the right reason then that's all they have to do. I did it because... It's not confrontational and really I think the level of rhetoric on both sides of this. I've got some emails this week from folks who were critical of those firefighters that I was ashamed to read. That's not what this conversation should be about that's not what our relationship in this community should be about it should be about civil discourse. That was both my intention and actually my words. So I'm thankful that you've reported this exactly and if anyone in the community doubts my word on that the video tape will be playing on hometown cable in the very near future. Listen to the words don't believe everything that you see or hear rumors tend to grow and it's just not true.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending January 12, 2011 in the amount of \$ 257,838.59 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of January 6 – January 12, 2011
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from July 20, 2010
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from January 4 – 11, 2011
- Statement from the City Clerk's Office of all monies received during the month of December 2010 in the total amount of \$16,464.09

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED: That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of \$ 1,133,048.80 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:

Scott Barshow, Plattsburgh Firefighters Union President said to call the public to action against individual members of the fire department was unnecessary and could have put them and their families in danger. In the wake of recent attacks on people who serve the public expressing anger in the media is not just giving some single person an excuse to act out its giving them permission. Some of the named employees genuinely fear for the safety of their families. They are seeking legal advice and if action is warranted they will have the union's full support in pursuing it. None of these individuals has any sort of vendetta against the city. They seek only to provide what is best for their families. We have been given a choice in our health insurance and we should not be rebuked in public or private for making a choice that was unpopular with management or the city's leaders. The union is currently trying to negotiate a contract with the city that is fair to its members and taxpayers. Items that are part of these negotiations should be discussed in the proper venue.

Mayor Kasprzak said thank you Scott appreciate you coming.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

Motion to remove item 7A from the Table.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

A. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2011 budget to define the amount of unappropriated Fund Balance as \$1,246,535.36 necessary to balance the 2011 Common Council budget.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. Motion to adopt the Common Council proposed 2011 Budget, last revised on January 13th, 2011.

By Councilor Jackson; Second by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the proposed 2011 Budget, last revised on January 13th, 2011, as evidenced by the attached Budget Resolution making appropriations for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011, and ending December 31, 2011, and levying the property tax for the fiscal year 2011, as further evidenced by the attached 2011 Tax Warrant for the City of Plattsburgh. The complete Common Council Budget is attached dated January 13, 2011, included with the 2011 Capital Expenditure Plan, the City Assessor's report of the 2010 tax roll S495 Exemption Impact Report, the City of Plattsburgh report of the Summary of 2011 Operating Budget by Fund, the ten year tax assessment, tax rate, tax levy comparison report and the County of Clinton's 2011 tax warrant certifying the City of Plattsburgh share of the 2011 County tax levy.

By Councilor Jackson; Second by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to revise capital project 2005 GIS Project (H5110.13) to include \$12,461 of additional funding from the NYS Archives Grant for spending to complete the project.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Fountains

Spatial Inc be awarded the “Phase 2 GIS Implementation” for a total cost of \$12,400.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

E. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO CRAIG WORLEY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2011 TO JANUARY 13, 2018.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

F. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO WILLIAM FERRIS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2011 TO JANUARY 13, 2018.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

G. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO JAMES ABDALLAH EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2011 TO JANUARY 13, 2013.

Discussion:

Councilor Jackson said that is a fill of a vacated position.

Mayor Kasprzak said yes it is.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

H. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO JOSEPH ROTELLA EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2011 TO JANUARY 13, 2017.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

I. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO JESSIE FEILER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2011 TO JANUARY 13, 2015.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

J. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO ADAM WOOD EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2011 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 12 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

K. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO CHARLES WOLFE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2011 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 12 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

L. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO ANTHONY CORDICK EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2011 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 12 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Fire Chief Paul Williams to attend the “New York State Career Chiefs Meeting” in Cohoes, NY on January 24 - 25, 2011. The cost will not exceed \$350.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from David Powell, Chief Plant Operator, WPCP that the Common Council exercise the option and award a one-year contract extension (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012) to Adirondack Environmental Services, Contract #2010-01 “Laboratory Services” for the total price of \$91,400 and that the Mayor be authorized to sign to execute the necessary contract agreement for this work to commence.
2. Request from David Powell, Chief Plant Operator, WPCP that Contract #2010-17 for “Liquid Alum” be awarded to Thatcher Company of NY. The total bid was \$33,300 for alum for 74 dry tons.
3. Request from David Powell, Chief Plant Operator, WPCP that Contract #2010-18 for “30% Sodium Thiosulfate” be awarded to Thatcher Company of NY for an estimated total price of \$39,521.45.
4. Request from David Powell, Chief Plant Operator, WPCP that Contract #2010-19 for “15% Sodium Hypochlorite – Trade solution” be awarded to Surpass Chemical Company, Inc for an estimated total price of \$68,904.
5. Request from NYSDOT for Common Council approval of the Sidewalk Maintenance resolution for project #7805.29 – ADA Accessibility Improvements various locations.
6. Request from Sunrise Rotary and CVPH to establish a route from the CVPH entrance on Beekman Street, turning right on to Cornelia Street traveling up to the CVPH Cornelia Street entrance for a horse and wagon ride during a Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 11 am – 4 pm. The Rotary Organization is the Insurance holder.
7. Request from the Community Development Office for authorization to enter into a contract with Camoin Associates to prepare two applications for 2011 DHCR New York Main Street Grant and 2011 CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.

8. Request from the Community Development Office for a Change Order to Project HOME-4-2009 at 38 Pike Street (Baker) in the total amount of \$1750.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Carpenter said this week has been a pretty hectic week with fire department union and what went on last week. Although how **Councilor Calnon** approached it probably isn't the way I would have approached things that's unimportant. What is important is that everyone here at this table has the right to say how they feel. At the point where we are afraid to say how we feel we become very ineffective as **Councilors**. That's one of the reasons we're here that's why there is more than one of us so that we can all have our own point of view and then the vote goes with whatever everyone believes. So I commend you on the fact that you would stand up and say that, I personally have no problems with anything that you've said and I don't think that we should have any issues hidden or secret away from the public or away from the media or away from anyone else. It happens here in the city we need to discuss openly here at this table because it involves everybody. It doesn't just involve us, it doesn't just involve unions, it doesn't just involve management. It involves everybody in the city; everybody who comes here, pays taxes and lives here this involves everyone. So I think we need continue and say how we feel and what we have to say. It's not going to change the way I am and I hope Jim you continue the way you go.

Councilor Case said tremendous job on the snocross event that any of the city employees, the vendors and organizers had a hand in. I was out there both days. I was just amazed at the people so great job.

Mayor Kasprzak said the effort by not only Mike Perrotte and Steve Fuller and the Airborne Staff and Snocross but our city employees did an outstanding job and I thanked them many times over the weekend and saw many of them there. Leading up to that with Bill Treacy and Mike Brodi and Steve and Rick it was just something I think that during this time of year was a very successful event that has never been scheduled. I hope the media doesn't really put this out too much but I met with Mike Perrotte today and he is very close to meeting with myself again and Steve to make a commitment for next year and he couldn't have been more pleased with the city's efforts. I can't tell you how many times that he was very appreciative of all our efforts and our employee's efforts. I think they want to tweak it a little bit where they'll make some changes and they're going to be more successful if they come back. He was really anxious to get a date just get back to Steve and myself in the next couple of weeks. Thank you for bringing that up. There's a whole bunch of other stuff with Mayor's Cup that is starting to evolve that I will share with all of you as we become a little more official on what we are going to be discussing and probably making decisions on. There's a meeting next week that I have a city representative on who is going to bring my information to the meetings because I can't get to all of those. So will start that dialogue and I'll bring you up to speed on those things as those meetings get a little bit closer and the weather breaks. So I'll keep you informed on that but there's a lot of good things happening. I think there will be more events coming in 2011 and 2012 and as I get the details I will share them all with you. Again, I was really impressed with people.

Councilor Case said the city and the organizers earned a lot of credibility for being very professional because I talked to some of the vendor's and some of the people that came to it and they were very happy.

Mayor Kasprzak said that's good as I said to Mike and I say to everybody who comes to the city for an

event or something and our department heads no this f it's not a win win for the people that are going to come here than I don't really want to entertain it because I don't want us to only reap the benefits. It's got to be something that's successful for everybody then they come back and they build on it. There's no way that I want a business to begin in Plattsburgh and not be successful. I don't want an event here to not be successful that doesn't help anybody it just doesn't. That's just rhetoric and politics and having press conferences and saying oh yeah it's great to do this but it wasn't successful. So I don't want to do that, we don't do that and so far we got a pretty good record of success with people that have come here and they want to come back and Mike Perrotte's a perfect example of that.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:54 pm